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South-South cooperation for development

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High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation
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South-South cooperation

The High-level Committee,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which the Assembly endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,[1]

Reaffirming also the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Nairobi from 1 to 3 December 2009, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/222 of 21 December 2009,[2]

Recalling its decisions 18/1 and 18/IM/1, as well as General Assembly resolution 70/222 of 22 December 2015,

Reaffirming that South-South cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for development as a complement to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation, and recognizing its increased importance, different history and particularities, stressing that South-South cooperation should be seen as an expression of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South, based on their shared experiences and objectives, and reiterating that it should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit,

Reaffirming also General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

[2] General Assembly resolution 64/222, annex.

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universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming further General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions and reaffirms the strong global commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on a comprehensive proposal on concrete ways to enhance the role and impact of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation as well as the key measures taken to improve the coordination and coherence of United Nations support to South-South cooperation,[3]

Taking note also of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the new directions strategy for South-South cooperation and the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,[4] and taking note further of the framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation,[5]

1. *Stresses* that the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation is a key intergovernmental body in the United Nations system for reviewing and assessing global and system-wide progress on and support for South-South and triangular cooperation;

2. *Also stresses* that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but is rather a complement to, North-South cooperation;

3. *Reaffirms* the mandate and the central role of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation as the focal point for promoting and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation for development on a global and United Nations system-wide basis, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to present, during the ongoing seventieth session of the General Assembly, further information on the additional and specific assignments and duties to be taken up by the Director of the Office deriving from his designation as the Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South cooperation, taking into consideration the requests made by Member States to improve the impact of the Office under the auspices of the United

[3] SSC/19/2.
[4] SSC/19/1.
[5] SSC/17/3.

Nations Development Programme, including in the areas of financial, human and budgetary resources, and the potential appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General on South-South cooperation, with a view to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[6]

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to implement, as appropriate, the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit[7] and the United Nations Development Programme[8] that remain unfulfilled;

5. *Takes note* of the proposals, challenges and recommendations by the Secretary-General on concrete ways to enhance the role and impact of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, as outlined in his report,[3] and requests the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of these proposals and recommendations in his report on the state of South-South cooperation to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session;

6. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the progress made by the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Task Team of the United Nations Development Group in establishing a more formalized and strengthened inter-agency mechanism coordinated by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and in designating United Nations development system focal points to join the mechanism, in this regard reiterates the request made to the Administrator to give the Office the opportunity to be represented more regularly in strategic and coordination mechanisms of the Group when matters affecting South-South and triangular cooperation are being discussed, and in this regard requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, as Chair of the Group, to include, as part of the regular reporting, an update on the progress of the work of the Task Team for the consideration of Member States by the end of 2016;

7. *Recognizes* that the primary constraints on the effective application of South-South cooperation by the United Nations system are inadequate dedicated human and financial resources, together with a limited capacity to leverage the global presence of the United Nations development system through effective mapping, dissemination and application of proven development solutions, welcomes the ongoing mapping of good practices in South-South and triangular cooperation by the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Task Team, encourages the Task Team members to continue the mapping and design of joint strategies and programmes for scaling up such practices upon request by Member States, taking into account similar exercises undertaken at the regional level, as applicable, and in this regard requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, as Chair of the United Nations Development Group, to include an update on the progress of the work of the Task Team for the consideration of Member States by the end of 2016;

8. *Also recognizes* that some United Nations entities and agencies have stepped up their support to South-South initiatives in areas including policy coordination, capacity development, research and analysis, networking, partnership-building and funding, and urges all funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, as appropriate and consistent with their respective

[6] Resolution 70/1.
[7] See A/66/717.
[8] See DP/2013/31.

mandates, to integrate South-South and triangular cooperation into their policies and strategic frameworks;

9. *Invites* the United Nations development system to encourage the transfer of technologies on mutually agreed terms for the benefit of developing countries to address poverty eradication and sustainable development;

10. *Welcomes* the launch, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, and looks forward to its expeditious operationalization;

11. *Notes with appreciation* that a number of Member States have designated national focal points for South-South and triangular cooperation given the need to strengthen the dissemination of information on the work of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and encourages others to do the same, welcomes the establishment of a network of Southern centres of excellence in developing countries, and requests the Office, in close collaboration with the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Task Team, to foster dialogue and collaboration among such centres with a view to advancing South-South and triangular cooperation in strategic sectors to address pressing development challenges, and to report the outcome in the annual reports of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation;

12. *Recognizes* that the rapid increase in connectivity within and among developing countries as a result of the spread of wireless networks is having a positive affect on South-South cooperation, and invites Member States, with the support of the relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, as well as regional commissions, to establish or strengthen subregional, regional and interregional programmes to better leverage the digital revolution and bridge the digital divide with a view to improving the delivery of public services in the South;

13. *Also recognizes* that illicit financial outflows from developing countries have a very negative impact on the capacity to mobilize domestic resources that could be used for development, including South-South cooperation, and in this regard requests the United Nations system, as appropriate, to support Member States in efforts to increase transparency in tax matters and curbs on anonymously owned shell companies;

14. *Further recognizes* the need to strengthen and further invigorate South-South cooperation in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, invites the General Assembly to consider convening a high-level United Nations conference on South-South cooperation on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,[1] in 2018, or no later than the first semester of 2019, with a view to articulating how South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation could best contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda with the backing of appropriate institutional arrangements, and requests the President of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation to conduct consultations among Member States in 2017 to consider the nature, date and modalities of the conference and submit the findings for consideration by the High-level Committee at its twentieth session;

15. *Notes with appreciation* the strengthening of South-South and triangular cooperation, including through the establishment of institutions such as the New Development Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and similar entities that complement existing institutional arrangements, and encourages the United Nations system to support the work of Southern institutions, as appropriate;

16. *Recognizes* that interregional South-South and triangular summits to set strategies and agendas, enhance policy coordination and launch joint initiatives have become key means of bolstering South-South trade and investment and other exchanges relevant to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and requests the United Nations system to support the implementation of such initiatives agreed upon by Member States during these summits and to include the progress and results of such support in the reports to the High-level Committee at its twentieth session;

17. *Welcomes* the growing contribution of some developing countries to the provision of complementary resources and support for infrastructure development and to the production and diffusion of renewable technologies and affordable medicines, and encourages Member States and the United Nations system to strengthen and bolster these initiatives at the global and regional levels;

18. *Recognizes* the need to mobilize adequate resources for enhancing South-South and triangular cooperation, and in this context invites all countries in a position to do so to contribute, in support of such cooperation, to the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation and to the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/263 of 20 December 2002, and to support other initiatives for all developing countries, including technology transfers among developing countries;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on progress made in implementing the present decision to the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its twentieth session, in 2018.